

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15 SAS-02
CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 NRC-05 SMS-01 /153 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3679

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 13187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UR, US, CCD

SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, ROUND

EIGHT: THIRD PLENARY MEETING, AUGUST 29, 1978

REF: STATE 197704

CW MESSAGE NO. 10

1. SUMMARY. THIRD PLENARY MEETING OF ROUND EIGHT WAS HELD AUGUST 29, 1978. SOVIET DEL HEAD (AMB. V.I. LIKHATCHEV) PRESENTED PREPARED STATEMENT IN WHICH HE REJECTED US PROPOSALS FOR DECLARATION AND ON-SITE INSPECTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRODUCTION FACILITIES. HE EXPLAINED SOVIET COUNTER-PROPOSAL FOR DECLARATION OF "PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES" (NOW REFERRED TO BY SOVIETS AS "PRODUCTION CAPACITIES"). LIKHATCHEV ALSO REJECTED US PROPOSAL THAT SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES BE PRODUCED AT A SINGLE LOCATION. HE REITERATED SOVIET POSITION THAT ON-SITE INSPECTIONS MUST BE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. STATEMENT ALSO TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON IRRITANTS. END SUMMARY.
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2. THIRD PLENARY MEETING OF ROUND EIGHT WAS HELD TUESDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 29, 1978 AT SOVIET REQUEST IN PLACE OF SCHEDULED DRAFTING GROUP MEETING. SOVIET DEL HEAD, AMB. V.I. LIKHATCHEV, PRESENTED PREPARED STATEMENT DEALING WITH: (A) DECLARATION OF "CAPACITY" FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRODUCTION, (B) IRRITANTS, AND (C) US PROPOSAL THAT SUPER-

TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES BE PRODUCED AT A SINGLE SITE. SALIENT POINTS ARE NOTED BELOW.

3. DECLARATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRODUCTION "CAPACITY".

A. LIKHATCHEV BEGAN BY STATING THAT DECLARATIONS CONNECTED WITH CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRODUCTION AND VERIFICATION ARE CLOSELY CONNECTED. THE USSR BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECLARATION OF FACILITIES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SUCH WEAPONS IS NOT CALLED FOR BY THE NEEDS OF VERIFYING THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONVENTION." LIKHATCHEV REAFFIRMED SOVIET READINESS TO DECLARE PRODUCTION "CAPACITIES" FOR SPECIFIC CHEMICALS AND TO AGREE TO TIME LIMITS FOR SUCH DECLARATIONS. (COMMENT: RUSSIAN WORD IS "MOSHCHNOST", WHICH CAN BE TRANSLATED EITHER AS "CAPABILITY" OR "CAPACITY". IN PAST ROUNDS, THE SOVIETS USED BOTH TRANSLATIONS ALTHOUGH "CAPABILITY" WAS USED MORE FREQUENTLY. END COMMENT.)

B. IN RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS US REQUESTS (REFTEL) LIKHATCHEV EXPLAINED THAT "DECLARATION OF CAPACITIES" MEANT DECLARATION OF AGGREGATE QUANTITIES OF POSSIBLE ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL AGENTS WITHOUT INDICATING LOCATIONS. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO ELEMENTARY EXPLANATION OF HOW ANNUAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY IS USUALLY CALCULATED (DAILY PRODUCTION MULTIPLIED BY NUMBER OF DAYS MINUS RE-

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PAIR TIME, SUMMED OVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY). LIKHATCHEV JUSTIFIED SOVIET REFUSAL TO DECLARE LOCATIONS BY ARGUMENT THAT OVERALL PRODUCTION CAPACITY IS A MUCH MORE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN A COUNTRY'S CW POTENTIAL THAN IS LOCATION OR THE CAPACITY OF INDIVIDUAL PLANTS.

C. IN CONCLUSION, LIKHATCHEV REITERATED THAT THE USSR "CANNOT ACCEPT THE US PROPOSAL ON THE DECLARATION OF FACILITIES AND THE CARRYING OUT OF MANDATORY INTERNATIONAL VERIFICATION OF THE DESTRUCTION OR DISMANTLING OF ENTERPRISES AT WHICH CW WERE PRODUCED." HE SAID THE SOVIET SIDE HAD EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR THIS POSITION IN PREVIOUS ROUNDS.

4. IRRITANTS.

TURNING BRIEFLY TO IRRITANTS, LIKHATCHEV NOTED PREVIOUS US STATEMENT THAT "THE US WOULD DEVELOP, PRODUCE, OR STOCKPILE SUCH CHEMICALS ONLY FOR USE FOR DOMESTIC RIOT CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES, FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES OR FOR USE IN DEFENSIVE MILITARY MODES", WHICH WERE SPECIFIED WHEN THE US RATIFIED THE GENEVA PROTOCOL. HE

STATED THAT ANY EXCLUSION OF IRRITANTS FROM THE CONVENTION MUST APPLY EQUALLY TO ALL PARTIES. HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT PARTIES PERIODICALLY DECLARE TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF IRRITANTS FOR PERMITTED PURPOSES. (COMMENT. US HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE A SIMILAR PROPOSAL FOR DECLARATION OF IRRITANTS. END COMMENT.)

5. SINGLE PRODUCTION FACILITY FOR SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES.

A. LIKHACHEV REJECTED THE US PROPOSAL THAT ALL PRODUCTION OF SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES BE CONDUCTED AT A SINGLE LOCATION. HE ARGUED THAT TO DO SO WOULD BE TOO EXPENSIVE AND TOO COMPLEX TECHNICALLY.

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NASA-01 NEA-10 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15 SAS-02
CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 NRC-05 SMS-01 /153 W
-----042769 311212Z /43

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B. WITH RESPECT TO VERIFICATION IN THIS AREA, LIKHACHEV STATED THAT "INTERNATIONAL VERIFICATION OF INSTALLATIONS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THESE CHEMICALS LOSES ITS MEANING BECAUSE OF THE INSIGNIFICANCE OF THE AMOUNTS."

6. ON-SITE INSPECTIONS.

LIKHACHEV REITERATED SOVIET POSITION "OF PRINCIPLE" BY SAYING THAT "THE SOVIET SIDE CONTINUES TO PROCEED FROM ITS PROPOSAL THAT THE MAIN FORM OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL MUST BE THE CARRYING OUT OF ON-SITE INSPECTIONS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS."

7. LIKHACHEV CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT THE USSR HOPED

THE US WOULD RECEIVE THE SOVIET VIEWS "WITH UNDERSTANDING"
AND WILL ASSIST IN FINDING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS.

8. AT USDEL REQUEST DRAFTING GROUP MEETING PREVIOUSLY
SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, HAS BEEN POSTPONED
AND A PLENARY MEETING SCHEDULED IN ITS STEAD DURING WHICH
USDEL INTENDS TO RESPOND TO SOVIET STATEMENT. VANDEN
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHEMICAL WARFARE WEAPONS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA13187
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780355-1304
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978085/aaaaadln.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a3ee6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 197704
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1697237
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, ROUND EIGHT: THIRD PLENARY MEETING, AUGUST 29, 1978
TAGS: PARM, UR, US, CCD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a3ee6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014